



Public Notice

US Army Corps
of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Number: 200300726

Date: August 1, 2005

Comments Due: August 30, 2005

SUBJECT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, (Corps) is evaluating a permit application to retain approximately 0.084 acres of fill and discharge additional dredged or fill material in association with Granite Construction Inc.'s aggregate mining project, which would result in a loss of approximately 0.51 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, in or adjacent to Manning Creek. This notice is to inform interested parties of the proposed activity and to solicit comments. This notice may also be viewed at the Corps web site at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html>.

AUTHORITY: This application is being evaluated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States.

APPLICANT: Granite Construction Company
1324 South State Street
Ukiah, California 95482
707-467-4100
Attn: Jordan Main

LOCATION: The approximately 376-acre project site is located southwest of the City of Lakeport in Section 11, 12, 13 and 14, Township 13 North, Range 10 West, MDB&M, in Lake County, California, and can be seen on the Highland Springs USGS Topographic Quadrangle.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant is proposing to expand and continue to operate an existing gravel quarry. The proposed project would increase the area being mined from 56.1 acres to approximately 200 acres. Aggregate production would increase from approximately 480,000 tons/year to approximately 1,000,000 tons/year. Additionally, the existing plant pad will be expanded by approximately 20 acres to facilitate the construction of onsite processing plants, product stockpiles, settling ponds and equipment storage. Based on the available information, the overall project purpose is to construct a commercial gravel quarry and associated processing facilities. The applicant believes there is a need to provide construction grade aggregate. The attached drawings provide additional project details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Environmental Setting. The project site is near the center of the 1,670-acre property owned by Granite Construction. This property is in the Northern Coastal Range. Elevations range from approximately 1,500 feet above mean sea level(MSL) in the northern most portion of the property

to 2150 feet MSL, in the southern portion of the property. There are approximately 2.19 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, within the 376-acre project area. The site is characterized by steep hillsides with shallow soils.

Alternatives. The applicant has provided information concerning project alternatives. Additional information concerning project alternatives may be available from the applicant or their agent.

Mitigation. The Corps requires that applicants consider and use all reasonable and practical measures to avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic resources. If the applicant is unable to avoid or minimize all impacts, the Corps may require compensatory mitigation.

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS: Water quality certification or a waiver, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board is required for this project. The applicant has applied for certification.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: Based on the available information, including the applicant's report entitled *Cultural Resource Reconnaissance of 89+/- Acres Near Lakeport, Lake County, California (Granite Construction Highway 175 Quarry Site)*, there are no cultural resources within the project's area of potential effect.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The proposed activity may affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. The Corps will initiate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as appropriate.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed project will not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The above determinations are based on information provided by the applicant and our preliminary review.

EVALUATION FACTORS: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the described activity, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the described activity will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The activity's impact on the public interest will include application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR Part 230).

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: Written comments, referencing Public Notice 200300726, must be submitted to the office listed below on or before August 30, 2005:

William Guthrie, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Delta Office
1325 J Street, Room 1480
Sacramento, California 95814-2922
Email: William.H.Guthrie@usace.army.mil

The Corps is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposal's probable impacts on the affected aquatic environment and the secondary and cumulative effects. Anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state, with particularity, the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the Corps determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. If you have questions or need additional information please contact the applicant or the Corps' project manager William Guthrie, 916-557-5269, William.H.Guthrie@usace.army.mil.

Attachments: 7 drawings